

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 EB-07 /083 W

----- 065139

R 091345Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7730

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 314

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, C, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON RHODESIA BEFORE HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REF: A. STATE 055627, B. GABORONE 0324, C. LONDON 3315,
D. MBABANE 0334

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED STATEMENT REF A TO ATTENTION MINISTER
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE, WHO NOTED THAT STATEMENT HAD RECEIVED
PROMINENT COVERAGE BY THE RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND
RADIO MEDIA.

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2. MOGWE SAID GOB POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CALLS FOR PEACEFUL

CHANGE. HE RECALLED THAT THE GOB HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO SOVIET, CUBAN AND OTHER FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. MOGWE STRESSED THAT BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE REACHED A STATE OF UTTER DESPERATION. EFFORTS TO EFFECT PEACEFUL CHANGE HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID REBEL LEADER SMITH HAD FRUSTRATED ALL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIAN

BASED ON MAJORITY RULE. SOUTH AFRICA HAD CONSISTENTLY DEFIED UN RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND APARTHEID. FOR THESE REASONS LIBERATION GROUND FELT COMELLED TO TURN TO THE SOVEITS AND CUBANS FOR ASSISTANCE AS A LAST RESORT. MOGWE SAID BOTSWANA AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES UNDERSTOOD THEIR POSITION SINCE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA IS A HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVE. MOGWE SAID LIBERATION GROUPS WOULD PREFER NOT TO RELY ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS, BUT THEY SAW NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL.

4. MOGWE AGREED THAT VIOLENT SOLUTIONS WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA. MERE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE ARE NOT ENOUGH. HE ASKED WHAT IS THE U.S. IN FACT DOING TO PUT TEETH IN ITS EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE UNITED STATES AS A SUPERPOWER TO TAKE CONCRETE AND POSITIVE STEPS TO CONVINCE SMITH THAT TIME HAS RUN OUT. HE SAID SMITH MUST REACH A SETTLEMENT QUICKLY BASED ON MAJORITY RULE; THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO AVERT A LARGE-SCALE WAY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WOULD HAVE WORLDWIDE IMPLICATIONS.

BOLEN

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